

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification to include the following paragraph beginning at the first line of the specification:

--This application is a continuation of USSN 09/454,498, filed 12/6/99, now US Patent No. 6,268,149, which is a continuation of USSN 08/946,679, filed 10/8/97, now US Patent No. 6,087,100, which is a continuation of USSN 08/709,263, filed 9/6/96, now US Patent No. 5,780,234, which is a continuation of USSN 08/166,036, filed 12/10/93, now US Patent No. 5,591,578.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 31 with the following paragraph:

--Figures ~~[[1]]~~ 1A to 1H ~~illustrates~~ illustrate possible orientations of electron donor (EDM) and electron acceptor (EAM) moieties on a single stranded nucleic acid.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 1 with the following paragraph:

--Figures ~~[[2]]~~ 2A-1 to 2A-9 and 2B-1 to 2B-9 ~~illustrates~~ illustrate orientations of electron transfer moieties EDM and EAM on two adjacent single stranded nucleic acids. These orientations also apply when the two probes are separated by an intervening sequence.--